Report of the Department of Industries, Assam, for the year 1940-41

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CHAPTER I

Personnel.—Mr. S. L. Mehta, I.C.S., held charge of the Department in addition to his duties as Registrar of Co-operative Societies and Registrar of Village Authorities till the 27th February 1941, on which date he was relieved by me.

During the period he was in-charge of the Department, he was on tour for 99 days and visited the Technical School at Jorhat, the Hosiery Demonstration class at Gauhati, the Sericultural Stations at Titabar and Shillong, the Branch Emporium and the Calico Printing Demonstration Class at Karimganj, the Peripatetic Jute demonstration class at Habiganj, the Goalpara Goaltuli Girls' Middle English School, the Goalpara Moslem Girls' Lower Primary School, the Khara Girls' Middle English School, the Nishangram Lower Primary School, the Rowmari Girls' Lower Primary School, the Goalpara, the Kalkali Weaving Factory, the Tezpur Local Board's Technical School, the Paldahar Weaving School, the Umbrella Handle Factory of Babu Loke Nath Doctor and the Haramohini Oil Mill at Karimganj, the Dyeing and Printing Works of Srijut Phanidhar Das of Tezpur, the Assam Leather Works of Maulavi Tayab Ali of Tezpur, the Bihaguri Girls' Middle Vernacular School at Tezpur, the Pioneer Knitting Mills Limited at Gauhati, the Assam Soap and Chemical Works at Habiganj, the Ramkrishna Mission School at Cherrapunji, the Pail Silpalaya and Sikhasadan at Habiganj, the Srinathpur Weaving School at Maulvibazar and the Paper-making Works of Srijut Gopal Chandra Das of Sibsagar.

In December 1940, he attended the 13th session of the All-India Industries Conference and the Imperial Sericultural Committee's meeting at Lucknow.

During the short period I was in charge of the Department, I did not go out on tour.

Rao Saheb N. M. Sundram, L.T.M., the permanent Weaving Superintendent, who was appointed as the Purchase Officer (Textiles), Indian Stores Department, during the year under report, continued to hold charge of the Weaving branch and the Government Emporia till the 21st November 1940. From 22nd November 1940, Babu Rash Behari Das, L.T.M., the Marketing Officer was appointed to officiate as the Weaving Superintendent and remained in charge of the Weaving Branch and the Government Emporia till the end of the year under review.

Rao Saheb N. M. Sundram was on tour for 43 days and Babu Rash Behari Das for 51 days in the year. The latter inspected the work of the four peripatetic weaving parties, the jute weaving and hosiery demonstration classes, the weaving and durrie weaving sections attached to the Surma Valley Technical School, Sylhet, and the calico printing class under the development scheme, besides exercising general supervision over the working of the dyeing demonastration party and co-operative weaving societies and over the marketing of the products of indigenous cottage industries and the Weaving School at Gauhati. He also visited the Khasi Co-operative Weaving Society and the Assam Industries Association at Shillong,

the Sakti Asram at Fakiragram, a number of silk factories at Sualkuchi, Nath Bazar near Karimganj, the Technical School at Silghat and a fairly large number of weaving classes attached to some of the High, Middle English, Middle Vernacular and Lower Primary Schools of both the valleys, rendering all possible help to them. He also gave substantial help and technical advice to a number of rural uplift centres in different localities under the administrative control of the Department of Agriculture, Assam.

Srijut Ratneswar Dutta, B.SC., continued to hold charge of the Sericultural operations of the province as Superintendent of Sericulture. He was on tour for 110 days and visited the two Sericultural stations at Titabar and Shillong. He also supervised the working of the schemes for the development of the sericultural industry and inspected the work of the Sericultural Demonstrators in different centres throughout the province. In the course of supervision and inspection of field demonstration work he gave all possible technical help and advice to private sericulturists in the matter of production of cellular (disease-free) seeds, cultivation and extension of silk worm food-plants, silk-worm rearing, silk reeling and re-reeling, and silk spinning. For the successful working of the schemes financed by the Governmentof India for the development of the sericultural industry in the province, the Superintendent of Sericulture and the staff under him had, as in previous years, to work hard.

GENERAL FEATURES

The activities of the Department, which does not deal with large scale industries, were, as before, confined maily to the encouragement of handloom weaving and sericulture and to the spread of technical and industrial education among the youths of the province. During the year under report, two new schemes, one for the manufacture of *ghee* and the other for the improvement of fish culture, were put into operation, separate staff being entertained for each of them.

Hand-loom weaving.—Besides four peripatetic weaving demonstration parties, a jute weaving party and a hosiery demonstration party for propaganda and demonstration in suitable centres for the introduction of improved and up-to-date appliances, processes and designs and patterns, there are two regular schools, including the weaving section attached to the Surma Valley Technical School at Sylhet, maintained by Government for imparting training in weaving.

During the year under report the Department received a grant of Rs. 25,075 from the Government of India for the development of the hand-loom weaving industry in the province, and against this an expenditure of Rs. 23,305-7-9 was incurred in continuing the following schemes, which have been in operation since 1935-36.

SCHEME No. I.

Re-organisation of the Government Emporium and Central Stores, Gauhati—Until his appointment as officiating Weaving Superintendent on the 22nd November, 1940, Babu Rash Behari Das continued to work as the Marketing Officer under this scheme, and from the 27th November, 1940, till the end of the year, Srijut Durga Nath Bordoloi held that office. There were two Travelling Canvassers, one for each valley, working under the Marketing Officer. All these three officers worked hard to introduce new designs

and patterns and to popularise hand-loom products by propaganda and advertisement as usual. Babu Rash Behari Das was on tour for 47 days and Srijut Durga Nath Bardoloi for 31 days. Both of them visited several important markets in the province and successfully introduced a number of up-to-date designs and patterns and helped in the disposal of the fabrics turned out by the village weavers throughout the province. They also attended a number of exhibitions, at which a variety of woven fabrics manufactured by *ex*-students of our institutions, private factories and individual weavers were displayed and sold to the public. The Emporium also continued to supply the requirements of the Assam Industries Association and of several Government departments. A new venture it launched upon during the year under report was to undertake the supply of Chaukidari uniforms required for the Sylhet district at an estimated cost of Rs.16,800. A large number of individual village weavers were engaged to manufacture the cloth required for the purpose. After the close of the year however, the position was reviewed on the initiative of the Inspector-General of Prisons, and it has since been decided to undertake the supply of only the number of uniforms for which the Emporium has already collected materials, it being left to the Jail department to supply the rest. Samples of standard designs in booklet form were, as in previous years, distributed to some of the weavers and factory owners to the Assam Industries Association, to Weaving Assistants in charge of weaving parties and to casual as well as regular customers both in and outside the province for advertisement purposes.

SCHEME No. II

Establishment of a Branch Emporium at Sylhet.—The branch Emporium since its removal from Sylhet to Karimganj in 1939, has been able to afford more facilities than before to both individual weavers and co-operative weaving societies in the largest cotton weaving centre in the province, in the shape of quick supply of looms and accessories, yarn, colours and chemicals and sale of their finished products at remunarative rates. The close touch which it has helped to establish between the departmental officers and professional weavers has resulted in a visible improvement in the quality of the latter's weaving and in their turning out fabrics with designs more attractive to the better class of customers. Apart from catering for the general public, the Branch Emporium executed considerable orders received from the Indian Red Cross Society, the Assam Industries Association, Shillong and the Lady Hardinge Linen League which accounts for a sale of Rs.14,660-6-7 during the year under report as against Rs.7,587-12-3 in the preceeding year.

SCHEME No. III

Appointment of two Co-operative Weaving Inspectors.—There were two Co-operative Weaving Inspectors, one for each valley, working under this scheme and the details of the work done by them are furnished below :—

(1) The headquarters of the Co-operative Weaving Inspector in the Assam Valley which were at Sibsagar upto the end of July 1940, were shifted to Gauhati with effect from the 1st August 1940. The Inspector had 22 co-operative weaving societies to look after. He visited 50 villages throughout the valley, attended two exhibitions and delivered lantern lectures, which were much appreciated by the public. One useful result

of his efforts which is particularly worthy of mention is the successful introduction of silk and cotton weaving among the Kaibarta community of the Sibsagar subdivision with the result that some of the families of this community are reported to be maintaining themselves with the earnings of their fly-shuttle looms.

(2) The Co-operative Weaving Inspector for the Surma Valley had, in addition to his own regular duties, also to work as Charge Superintendent in connection with the last Census operations. He was on tour for 201 days. He organised a few new societies and rendered help and advice to the existing societies numbering about 84. There are now about 560 looms at work in the Valley and through the efforts of the Inspector about 1,500 new people have been pursuaded to take up weaving as a subsidiary occupation. Some of the co-operative societies in the valley are reported to be doing exceptionally good work, though the majority of them have yet to justify their existence.

SCHEME No. IV

Appointment of a Dyeing Supervisor.—The Dyeing Supervisor, with an operator to assist him, continued to do good work throughout the whole year. He was on tour for 203 days, dyed 3,365 lbs. of cotton yarn, 214 pieces of piece goods, 38 pieces of Abor rugs and 80 lbs. of silk yarn and bleached 345 lbs. of cotton yarn for the Emporia, the Weaving School and some private factories in the province. Besides, he conducted demonstrations in dyeing at suitable centres in rural areas. The scheme proved a success in introducing fast dyeing of yarn and cloth in various shades and colours, which was practically unknown to our weavers prior to the appointment of the Dyeing Supervisor.

Appoitment of a Calico Printing Instructor.—As already mentioned in the report for the preceding year, the original arrangement of giving practical demonstration in suitable centres was changed to the holding of regular classes to impart training to a few selected candidates in the art of printing. Accordingly, three classes, in which calico printing, resist printing and discharge printing, were regularly taught, were held during the year under report. Lessons were also given in dyeing with indenthrene, napthol, acid, basic, sulphur and basic colours including bleaching and finishing of cloths after printing. In all 31 students underwent training in the three classes and with a single exception all of them came out successful at the tests held on the completion of the courses.

In the course of imparting training to his students, the Calico Printing Instructor who has an operator to assist him, printed 1,200 yards of cloths 130 pieces of teapoys, 8 pieces of cotton durries, 12 pieces of cotton saris, and 2 pieces of blouse thans.

Owing to the scarcity of dye stuffs in India resultant upon war, Government sanctioned a contribution of Rs.5,000 to the Government Emporium and Central Stores, Gauhati, to enable it to keep a sufficient stock of colours and chemicals for the use of the departmental officers and individual weavers, dyers and printers of the province, and the stock was purchased during the year. All kinds of dye stuffs necessary could not, however, be had of the stockists.

The Khasi Co-operative Weaving Society of Shillong, to which the services of a Weaving Demonstrator attached to the Cachar Party were lent made a record progress in its sales, which amounted to Rs.11,050-11 as against Rs.5,700 in the previous year. There were 28 Khasi and 2 Nepali girls working on a contract basis on the looms provided by the society, Fabrics turned out by the society, for which there was an increasing demand, found a ready sale through the Assam Industries Association. During the year under report the society produced about 80 varieties of table cloths, teapoy covers, napkins, screens, bath mats, bed covers, dusters, towels and dress materials of different designs and patterns. As in previous years, it enjoyed the patronage of the public in general and of Lady Reid and Mrs. Dennehy in particular; in fact, it owes much of its success to the active interest which these two ladies have been taking in its welfare.

Production of improved disease-free seeds in the two departmental farms at Titabar and Shillong and propaganda and demonstrations by 6 permanent demonstrators and 20 temporary seed examiners and demonstrators were the main activities of the sericultural branch of the department. Since the close of the year sanction to the opening of two mulberry plantations, one at Gaurisagar and the other in Nowgong, has been accorded by Government, and the necessary steps have already been taken to put the schemes into operation.

The schemes financed by the Government of India for improvement of the sericultural industry in the province, for which an aid of Rs.15,129 was received from them, were successfully continued at a total cost of Rs.15,566-8-9 during the year under report.

As before, the Department has to depend mainly on the following three schools maintained by Government for the spread of technical education :—

1. The Fuller Technical School, Kohima.
2. The Surma Valley Technical School, Sylhet.
3. H. R. H. the Prince of Wales, Technical School, Jorhat.

Small non-recurring contributions, both from the provincial budget and the Assam Williamson Education Endowment Fund, were given this year also to a number of private institutions imparting vocational training to the youths of the province.

Soap demonstration classes were held in three centres, *viz*., Sylhet, Silchar and Jorhat, although the courses in the last centre could not be completed during the year under review. Along with the training in the manufacture of washing soap the students were given instruction in the manufacture of phenyle, and it is reported that some of the trained students, who have started factories of their own are supplying phenyle to a number of Municipalities, Jails, Local Boards and Pharmacies in the province. The Soap Instructor visited a number of factories by which his services for technicl advice and help were requisitioned during the year. According to the present sanction the scheme will terminate on the 31st March, 1942.

A scheme for the manufacture of *ghee*, sanctioned by Government, was put into operation with a Supervisor and two helpers during the year under report. The object of the scheme, which is on an experimental measure for three years is to introduce up-to-date methods of *ghee* manufacture and to find out a good market for the produce.

The question of location of the centre was given a good deal of consideration and in consultation with the Deputy Conservator of Forests, Haltugaon, Deosiri in the Ai Reserve in Goalpara has been found to be the place best suited for work among the graziers, of whom there is a large number in this reserve. They are Nepalis by caste, quite ignorant of modern processes of *ghee* manufacture, and they have been producing large quantities of *ghee* annually by country processes, which turn out a product of inferior quality.

The Supervisor was appointed in August, 1940. Durjng the course of the 8 months that have passed since his appointment, he has been able to bring about a tangible improvement among the graziers, in the management of live-stock, sanitary production of milk and milk products, manufacture of *ghee* and the marketing of the produce. As is the case with bell-metal and brass workers in the province, these graziers borrow money at an abnormally high rate of interest from Mahajans at the time of payment of grazing tax, giving the Mahajans an undertaking to sell their produce to them at a concessional rate, which leaves a very negligible margin of profit to them. With a view to a remedying this state of affairs it is contemplated to organise a co-operative society among the graziers of a few closely situated villages, to begin with. If this proves a success, more such societies will be organised.

A farm house and a residential quarter for the Supervisor were constructed at an expenditure of Rs.564-9-0 at Deosiri, and machinery and appliances worth about Rs.500 have been purchased in connection with the working of the scheme.

A Fishery Officer was sanctioned by Government during the year under report with the object of introducing pisciculture as a cottage industry in the province. A man trained in Madras at Government expense was appointed to the post. Since he joined his appointment in June 1940, he has been carrying on a preliminary survey of recognised fisheries in the districts of Surma Valley. The fisheries surveyed during the period are for the most part natural depressions of the ground or forsaken river-beds which remain under water all the year round or for the greater part thereof, and are known as "Beels". These inland fisheries are of great importance and abound in Surma Valley.

The Fishery Officer visited 173 fisheries, of which 107 are Government and 66 private owned. He also visited 12 tanks, where attempts are being made by some individuals to rear carp on a moderate scale, and gave expert advice wherever necessary. In the course of his preliminary survey, he has found that there has been a progressive diminution in the quantity of fish caught and fish brought to the market. Investigations were carried on by him as to the root cause of this decline, but a much more thorough investigation involving a good deal of time and money will be necessary before any scientific attempt can be made for the improvement of the fisheries of the province.

Since the close of the year under review the following new schemes have been sanctioned by Government, and necessary steps are being taken to put them into operation :—

1. Appointment of 5 additional Weaving Demonstrators.
2. Appointment of a Designer for Sualkuchi.
3. Installation of a Silk-throwing plant at the Government Weaving Institute, Gauhati.
4. Establishment of two Mulberry plantations.

CHAPTER II

COTTAGE INDUSTRIES—GENERAL

Hand-loom weaving and sericulture, the two most important cottage industries of the province, have been dealt with separately in Chapters III and IV respectively of this report.

With regard to the several other cottage industries existing in the province on a small scale it may be repeated that in the absence of the necessary staff under the department it was not possible to collect accurate information about them. Some details about a few of them have, however, been collected by the officers of the Department and are given below :—

As already mentioned in the past, the Department, for want of expert staff under it, could not unfortunately render any substantial help or even give necessary advice to prospective industrialists in order to give a start to some new industries for which apparently there exists ample scope.

Bell metal.—Sarthebari and its neighbouring villages in the Barpeta subdivision of the Kamrup district are the only localities in which this industry which is carried on by a particular community known as Kahars exists on a considerable scale. There are about 700 to 800 families engaged in it, and they generally prepare *Kahis, batas, pan batas, charias*, etc. The raw materials are supplied by Marwari mahajans, to whom the major portion of the profit goes, leaving a very small margin for the workers themselves. It is, however reported that by arranging the sale of their products through the Co-operative Society started in Sarthebari about a year ago some workers are at present deriving better profits than they did in the past or than those who work under Mahajans.

In the absence of highly skilled artisans attached to the Department, it has not been possible to bring about any improvement in the workmanship, design and polish of the manufactured articles. But it is hoped that when some of the boys come out after the completion of their course from the Bell-metal class opened from the 16th July, 1940, in His Royal Highness the Prince of Wales Technical School, Jorhat, the industry will get a fresh lease of life in the province. It is an encouraging feature that similar classes have been opened in some of the private institutions, such as the Polytechnic Institute at Sibsagar and the High English School at Sarthebari.

Brass work.—This industry is also mainly under the control of Marwari mahajans, who supply the actual workers, the majority of whom are in the Assam Valley and are known as Morias, with the raw materials. The articles manufactured are generally plates, pots, jars and other utensils of every day use, not of a high quality.

Ivory work.—The two workers of Barpeta Town mentioned in previous reports still seem to hold the field as far as this industry is concerned. Due to bad polish the manufactured articles, which comprise curved images, bangles, churis, combs, walking sticks, pan holders, paper cutters, etc., can hardly stand competition with similar articles imported from outside sources.

Iron industry.—Agricultural implements, garden requisites, cooking utensils, axes, *daos*, nut crakers and other similar articles of every-day use are manufactured, although on a small scale, in almost every village throughout the province. But it is only in Surma Valley, that it is carried on by natives of the province, known as Karmakars, being mainly in the hands of up-countrymen in Assam Valley.

Soap industry.—The number of factories manufacturing different varieties of washing soap, toilet soap, scented oil, snow, phenyle, etc., increased from 80 to 90 during the year under report. This increase is due to the fact that some more of the youths trained in the departmental soap demonstration classes held in selected towns have taken up the industry as a profession. The price of cocoanut oil, tallows, soap silicate and caustic soda has gone up considerably due to the present war and the factories are reported to be facing much difficulty in keeping down their sale prices so as to compete with the stuff imported from outside the province, particularly from Dacca.

Manufacture of steel trunks.—In spite of the high prices of raw materials, all the 60 steel trunk factories in the province are reported to be carrying on their business successfully. These factories generally manufacture steel trunks, suit-cases, buckets, drums, etc., which find a ready market inside the province.

Umbrella making.—The province has no factory for the manufacture of the iron parts and cloth required for umbrellas, which have, therefore, to be brought in from outside. There are nevertheless about 50 umbrella manufacturing shops in both the valleys and they use handles made from bamboos available mainly in the hilly tracts near Srimangal, Itakhola and Nilamsbazar in Surma Valley.

Shoe factories.—There are a number of shoe factories in the province, owned mostly by Chinese and up-countrymen with a few owned by local people. Some of them are doing good business, and particularly two factories, one at Dibrugarh and the other at Jorhat, owned by Chinese, are reported to be producing high class shoes, which stand competition in the open market. On the whole the industry is gradually flourishing in the province.

Carpentry workshops.—The number of carpentry shops owned by local enterprising youths is increasing, which is due to more and more of the passed students of the technical schools taking up the business as a profession. Financial difficulties, however, stand in the way of their organising their business on a large scale so as to compete with the shops run by Chinese and Punjabis.

Gold and Silver smiths.—The industry seems to be gradually decaying due to lack of progress in workmanship, to which another adverse factor has been added, namely, the abnormal rise in the price of gold.

Cane work.—The condition of this industry is rather stationary. The raw materials required for it are available in abundance in both the valleys, and there is a large demand for the manufactured articles, such as chairs,

tables, suit-cases, baskets, sofa, teapovs, etc., both in and outside the province, but unless the workmanship can be considerably improved, there is no chance of these articles getting a market in big cities like Calcutta, Bombay and Madras.

Mat making.—This industry is carried on mainly in Sylhet and Cachar as a subsidiary occupation by the agriculturists. It is reported that with the stoppage of large-scale imports of *chalnis* from Japan and elsewhere there has been a great demand for bamboo work substitutes for them from the tea gardens in Cachar. Besides this, large quantities of manufactured articles, such as *chatais*, *dharas*, mats and *sitalpatis*, are as usual exported annually to East Bengal, Calcutta and Rangoon. It is roughly estimated that bamboo mats, *chatais*, and *chalnis* worth about two lakhs of rupees are sold in and exported from the Surma Valley. There is, however, no export from the other valley, where these articles are prepared on a small scale for local consumption.

Pottery.—Due to the import of alluminium utensils and earthen articles of superior quality from Bengal and the United Provinces, the industry shows signs of gradual decay, although the old families of Kumars and Hiras are continuing the business as a subsidiary occupation on a small scale in the local markets.

Toys.—This industry, which once flourished in Sylhet district, is almost extinct owing to the import of Japanese celluloid and mechanical toys. There is hardly any chance of its revival.

Combs.—The condition of this industry, which is carried on mostly by Dacca people throughout the province, seems to be steady, though static. The manufactured articles are rough as compared with those imported from outside ; but due to their cheapness, they are getting a market.

Printing Presses.—There are about 70 to 80 printing presses in the province and almost all of them are reported to be getting sufficient work. Some of them work with oil engines and some with electric power, but the majority of them are worked with manual labour. As an incentive to this private enterprise, Government have entrusted some of the presses with the printing of forms and envelopes required for consumption in Government offices. A sum of Rs.2,880 has been issued as an industrial loan to the Sewali Press of Nowgong for expansion of its business.

Manufacture of ink.—A very limited number of ink manufacturing concerns exists in the province and so far they have failed to establish themselves due to the bad quality of their products, which hardly stand comparison with those available in the market.

Rubber stamp.—Except the Luxmi Industrial Works at Barpeta and the Assam Rubber Stamps Works at Kalugaon there was no concern on this line during the year under report. Both these concerns are reported to be working satisfactorily.

Rice and Oil Mills.—The condition of this industry indicates no change whatsoever.

Hosiery.—Considering the needs of the people, the number of hosiery factories, which is only 2, is rather small ; but as the hosiery class started by the Department has already turned out a number of trained youths, it is expected that there will be an addition to this number in the near future. During the year under report an industrial loan of Rs. 1,000 has been issued to the Pioneer Knitting Mills, Limited, at Gauhati of which one of our *ex-stipendiaries* is the Manager.

Electroplating.—With the opening of a class for imparting training in electroplating in His Royal Highness the Prince of Wales Technical School at Jorhat, it is expected that at least a few of the trained students will take to this business, for which there is ample scope in the province. There is at present only one electroplating factory at Dibrugarh which is working satisfactorily.

Paper making.—Sufficient quantities of raw materials for the manufacture of paper are available in the forests of the province but it is a pity that capital is shy and enterprise lacking, with the result that a line of business, which could really be remunerative, if organised on a sufficiently large scale, especially under existing conditions, remains closed.

Cotton ginning.—Cotton ginning by country processes is carried on in the Garo, Mikir, Naga and Haflong Hills, and also in Cachar district by Manipuris.

Match factories.—There are only two match factories in the province. The one at Dhubri is on a large scale, while the other at Jorhat, started recently, is on a small scale. Both the factories are reported to be doing well.

Tea chests manufacture.—There are some factories, big and small for manufacturing tea chests required by the numerous tea gardens in both the valleys of the province, and it is reported that as owing to the present war the American Venesta wood, which is most suitable for such chests is no longer imported into the province, there has been created a market for the local wood, which is being utilised for the purpose so that the industry has received an impetus.

CHAPTER III

HAND-LOOM WEAVING

As already said in the past, hand-loom weaving is the most important cottage industry of the province. The Department maintains two regular schools for imparting training to a number of students annually with a view to turn out some practical weavers in addition to four peripatetic weaving parties for propaganda and demonstration for the improvement of the industry. There are also two parties for giving practical demonstrations and imparting instruction in dyeing and printing, which are on a temporary basis and are entertained under the schemes financed by the Government of India for the development of hand-loom weaving. It is interesting to note that a number of private High English, Middle English, Middle Vernacular, and Lower Primary Schools for girls have opened regular classes for teaching spinning and weaving as an additional subject. Some of these schools were granted small non-recurring contributions by way of encouragement for the purchase of looms, accessories and raw materials out of the Assam Williamson Education Endowment Fund and from the Provincial budget.

Peripatetic Weaving Parties.—The strength of the four peripatetic weaving parties at the close of the year stood at 28 Weaving Demonstrators and 4 Weaving Assistants in charge of the parties. During the year under report one Weaving Demonstrator was sanctioned for the Ghagmari area in Goalpara district to introduce fly-shuttle weaving amongst the immigrants of the locality and to assist generally in running the weaving school opened by the

organisers of the local Rural Uplift centre in December, 1940. Since the close of the year, Government have sanctioned the creation of five additional posts of Weaving Demonstrators temporarily for three years as an experimental measure.

The parties visited 1,007 villages, rendered help to 101 co-operative societies, 49 schools, 26 factories and 34 rural uplift centres and introduced 481 looms and fly-shuttle sleys, 29 warping drums, 26 hand creels, 2 jacquards, 2 dobbies, 1 eri spinning charkha, 34 winding charkhas, and a large number of healds, reeds and shuttles throughout the province.

Along with their normal duties, the demonstration staff had to make some enquiries in connection with the informal survey of the hand-loom weaving industry in the province undertaken by the Department some time ago.

The jurisdiction of the Lower Assam Party, the headquarters of which remained at Gauhati, extends over the four districts of Kamrup, Goalpara, Darrang and Garo Hills. There were in this party 8 Weaving Demonstrators under one Weaving Assistant up to the end of September, 1940, and in October 1940 one additional Weaving Demonstrator was appointed exclusively to work in the Ghagmari area. These Demonstrators were distributed in different centres for demonstration, propaganda and introduction of improved methods.

The party visited 326 villages, rendered help to 9 schools, 5 Boa-kata societies and 1 factory and successfully introduced 189 fly-shuttle sleys and 3 warping drums.

The activities of the Upper Assam Party with its headquarters at Jorhat were confined to the districts of Sibsagar, Nowgong and Lakhimpur, as in the preceding year. The party consists of one weaving assistant and seven weaving demonstrators.

It visited 267 villages, introduced 166 looms and sleys and 2 warping drums and rendered help to 68 co-operative societies, 12 weaving schools and 5 rural uplift centres at Rahmaria, Samaguri, Naharani, Barapujia and Bhotaigaon.

Due to its inadequate strength, the party could not meet the growing demand made upon it by the public. It, nevertheless attended to the needs of the weavers as far as possible and helped to some extent in the standardisation of hand-loom products. It also introduced a number of new designs and afforded marketing facilities to the weavers to the best of its abilities.

This party has made satisfactory progress in the matter of expansion of the industry by propaganda, help and demonstration in suitable areas.

The area of operation of the Sylhet party was limited to the five subdivisions of the district with its headquarters at Sylhet. The strength of the party stood at 6 Weaving Demonstrators under one Weaving Assistant.

The party visited 170 villages, rendered help to 12 co-operative societies, 13 schools and 13 weaving factories and successfully introduced 54 new sleys, 6 warping drums, 10 hand creels, 1 jacquard, 1 dobby, 34 winding charkhas and other improved weaving accessories.

The strength of the Cachar party stood at 6 Demonstrators with one Weaving Assistant at their head. The jurisdiction of the party is limited to the district of Cachar only. One Demonstrator of the party was, as in the past, lent to the Khasi Co-operative Weaving Society at Shillong, which, under his guidance, made a record progress in its sales, as already mentioned.

The party visited 244 villages, and introduced 72 new looms and sleys, 18 warping drums, 16 hand creels, 1 jacquard, 1 eri spinning charkha and 1 dobby and rendered help to 16 co-operative societies, 15 schools and 12 factories in the district.

The party participated in the exhibition held at Fulatal and gave demonstrations in weaving. It also rendered valuable help to the rural uplift centres at Narsingpur, Buribail and Chandrapur and supplied sleys and accessories to the people of the flood-affected areas of both Silchar and Hailakandi subdivisions.

Jute Weaving Party.—The jute weaving demonstration party, consisting of a demonstrator and a jugali, was converted into a jute-weaving class to train up a number of actual workers in jute spinning, weaving and dyeing and allied processes in a systematic manner. Accordingly, classes were held in three important jute growing centres in the Sylhet district during the year under report.

In all, one girl and twenty-nine boys were trained in the spinning and weaving of different varieties of jute fabrics, such as asans, satranjis, jainamazes, easy-chair cloth, gunney bags, etc. The learners were also given instruction in basic dyeing processes on jute yarn, simple designs of diamond-pointed twill, hucaback and honeycomb.

As an outcome of this kind of intensive training, some of the trained students have already started jute weaving as a profession.

Hosiery Demonstration Party.—The hosiery demonstration class which was started at Gauhati for the first time on 23rd January, 1940, terminated in June, 1940 with the completion of the training of 8 students, of whom only 7 appeared at the final examination, all coming out successful.

The next class was held at Sylhet with 10 students, of whom 9 came out successful at the final test held in December, 1940. The necessity for holding another class at Sylhet was keenly felt and accordingly it was repeated there with 6 students on its roll ; but the courses, which are for six months in each centre, could not be completed before the close of the year.

Besides imparting training to the students in the classes, the Hosiery Instructor paid visits to the factories at Gauhati, Nalbari, Jorhat and Tezpur and gave them all necessary technical advice.

A few of the passed students have, it is reported, already started business in the line and are running their factories efficiently. There are a number of such factories, big and small, in the province, and if they succeed in manufacturing marketable goods according to the present-day taste, it is to be hoped that the industry will soon be established in the province providing an avenue of employment to some of the trained students.

Government Weaving Institute, Gauhati.—The teaching staff of the Institute consisted of one Head Teacher, two Assistant Teachers, one Weaving Mistress, one Textile Designer, one Dyeing Assistant and a temporary Silk Instructor.

The institute had 20, 20 and 5 students respectively on the rolls of the elementary, advanced and silk weaving courses on the 1st April, 1940. There were only 8 students in the female section on that date.

From the advance course 19 students appeared in the final examination held in May, 1940, and 17 of them came out successful. Five of the successful students again joined the Institute in the silk weaving course in November 1940 for further training, and it is reported that the remaining students are doing weaving at their home and that some of them are executing orders for the Emporium at Gauhati.

Of the 20 students in the elementary course only 18 appeared in the annual examination held in May, 1940, all coming out successful, and 16 of these joined the advanced course.

All the five students in the silk weaving course continued and completed their training successfully during the year under review.

Out of 8 girls undergoing training in the female section only 4 successfully completed the prescribed course of one year, and it is reported that all these 4 have started weaving at their homes on improved looms.

The new session of the Institute commenced from the 16th July, 1940 with 18 students in the advanced course, 16 in the elementary course and 12 in the female section. Five of the 18 students in the advanced course were awarded competitive stipends. Two passed students of the weaving section attached to the Surma Valley Technical School, Sylhet, were also admitted to the advanced course with stipends from Government. In the silk weaving course 5 new admissions were made with the commencement of the course from January, 1941. Thus the total number of new admissions made during the year was 53 (boys and girls), out of whom only 45 remained on the roll of the Institute on the 31st March, 1941.

Three Muslim and 10 Hindu students resided in the hostel attached to the Institute throughout the year.

There are several looms of different types at work in the Institute workshop. Most of them are worked with manual labour and a few with electric power.

The Institute produced 43 new patterns of fabrics and dyed 1,025 lbs. of yarn, 40 pieces of piece goods, 30 Abor rugs and two pieces of durries in the course of training the students.

The proposal for installation of a silk throwing plant in the Institute which was submitted by my predecessor last year, has since the close of the year under report, been sanctioned by Government and action is being taken to install the plant as early as possible.

The total receipt of Institute amounted to Rs.1,320-7-6 as against Rs.1,104-4-0 in the preceding year, and the expenditure in running it stood at Rs.20,979-1-6 as against Rs.18,123-2-0 in the previous year.

There were four meetings of the Managing Committee during the year under report.

CHAPTER IV

SERICULTURE

Srijut Ratneswar Dutta, B. SC., Superintendent of Sericulture, was in general charge of the sericultural work of the province throughout the year. He was on tour for 110 days, visited the two sericultural stations at Titabar and Shillong, supervised the work of the officers under the schemes for the development of the sericultural industry and inspected the work of the sericultural demonstrators in the different districts. During his tours he gave all possible technical advise and help to private sericulturists in the

matter of the production of cellular (disease-free) seeds, cultivation and extension of silk-worm food-plants, silkworm rearing, silk reeling and re-reeling and silk spinning. As already mentioned in the report for the previous year, he had to work under a heavy pressure.

Titabar Sericultural Station.—Srijut Ramananda Sarma, Assistant Superintendent of Sericulture, continued to hold charge of the station in addition to his work of supervising the operations for the production of disease free seeds in the districts of Lakhimpur and Sibsagar. He was on tour for 110 days, visited the demonstration circles under him and rendered technical assistance to the Seed Examiners and Demonstrators and a number of village rearers, who took a keen interest in the industry.

Except for an increase of half a bigha of land in the mulberry plantation, the area under different kinds of silk-worm food-plants, as shown below, remained the same as in the previous year. There was no increase in the total area of the Farm, which remained at 70 bighas of land rented from a local Mouzadar and Tea Planter.

I. *Muga* food plants—	(*a*) Some (Machilus Odorratissima)	29 bighas.
	(*b*) Sualu (Tetranthera Monopetala)	10 „
	(*c*) Chapa (Michelia Oblonga)	1 „
	(*d*) Mezankori (Litsea Citrata)	2 „
II. *Eri* Food plants—	(*a*) Castor	...11 „
	(*b*) Kesru	... ½ „
III. Mulberry Silk-worm food plants	(*a*) Medium trees ...	... 2 „
	(*b*) Bush	... 6½ „

Nine bighas of land under old castor plants were sown afresh with castor seeds after proper tillage operations and manuring with rotten cowdung and silk-worm litters.

The whole of the mulberry area was manured with Ammonium Sulphate. The whole of the Mezankori area and a part of the Som and Sualu areas were manured with rotten cowdung.

The Som and Sualu trees on 7 bighas of land were pruned low to about 10′ in height for healthy foliage, better branching and larger accommodation of *muga* worms.

For the propagation of silk-worm food-plants the Farm supplied through the departmental staff and Demonstrators and Seed Examiners 39,700 mulberry cuttings, 650 Som and Sualu seedlings and one seer of castor seeds, all free of charge, to sericulturists in different parts of the province.

During the year under review the following broods of silk-worms with the results noted against each were raised at the station :—

Species and varieties of silk-worms	When procured	Number of layings reared	Yield obtained	Name of brood	Weight of 100 empty cocoons in grammes	Remarks
1	2	3	4	5	6	7
Assamese White	Titabar 10th generation.	50	11,250	June	8·0 grammes	
Ditto	Titabar, 22nd generation.	40	13,195	July	9·2 ,,	
Ditto	Titabar, 11th generation.	40	7,220	July	9·4 ,,	
Ditto	Titabar, 23rd generation.	150	23,942	August	9·2 ,,	
Ditto	Titabar, 12th generation.	100	14,259	Sept.	8·2 ,,	
Ditto	Titabar, 24th generation.	40	5,500	Oct.	9·2 ,,	
Ditto	Titabar, 13th generation.	50	9,550	Oct.	8·2 ,,	
Ditto	Titabar, 25th generation.	10	2,200	Nov.	9·0 ,,	
Ditto	Titabar, 14th generation.	20	2,195	Dec.	8·0 ,,	
Ditto	Titabar, 26th generation.	20	4,225	March	7·2 ,,	
Assamese Greenish white.	Titabar, 15th generation.	10	2,450	May	8·0 ,,	
Ditto	Titabar, 16th generation.	40	8.500	June	9·0 ,,	
Ditto	Titabar, 17th generation.	40	9,190	August	10·2 ,,	
Ditto	Titabar, 18th generation.	60	13,952	Sept.	10·4 ,,	
Ditto	Titabar, 19th generation.	50	8,925	Oct.	11·0 ,,	
Ditto	Titabar, 20th generation.	10	1,350	Jan.	8·2 ,,	
Moria race—	Titabar, 2nd generation.	30	6,700	April	10·72 ,,	
Ditto	Titabar, 3rd generation.	43	12,175	June	10·0 ,,	

Species and varieties of silk-worms	When procured	Number of layings reared	Yield obtained	Name of brood	Weight of 100 empty cocoons in grammes	Remarks
1	2	3	4	5	6	7
Moria race—	Titabar, 4th generation.	25	8,750	July	9·0 grammes	
Ditto	Titabar, 5th generation.	25	6,325	August	9·2 ,,	
Ditto	Titabar, 6th generation.	20	4,960	Oct.	9·2 ,,	
Ditto	Titabar, 7th generation.	10	1,550	Dec.	10·0 ,,	
Ditto	Titabar, 8th generation.	8	625	March	8·0 ,,	
II—ERI						
Eri-White ..	Kathiwar, 4th generation.	40	1,500	April	Not recorded	
Ditto	Gujrat, 1st generation.	5	500	April	Ditto	
Ditto	Kathiwar, 5th generation.	40	3,500	May	Ditto	
Ditto	Gujrat, 2nd generation.	40	1,930	June	Ditto	
Ditto	Kathiwar, 6th generation.	40	2,195	June	Ditto	
Ditto	Saptgram, 1st generation.	40	5,290	August	Ditto	
Ditto	Titabar, 1st generation.	10	2,080	Oct.	Ditto	
Ditto	Kakodonga, 1st generation.	8	1,280	Nov.	Ditto	
Ditto	Titabar, 2nd generation.	30	4,018	Dec.	Ditto	
Ditto	Kamalabari, 1st generation.	30	4,134	Feb.	Ditto	
III—MUGA						
Muga ..	Rangjuli, 1st generation.	260	5,400	April	Ditto	
Ditto	Palasbari, 1st generation.	280	2,025	August	Ditto	
Ditto	Palasbari, 1st generation.	360	15,900	Sept.	Ditto	
Ditto	North Lakhimpur, 1st generation.	1,350	40,700	March	Ditto	

Species and varieties of silk-worms	When procured	Number of layings reared	Yield obtained	Name of brood	Weight of 100 empty cocoons in grammes	Remarks
1	2	3	4	5	6	7
PAT						
A.—Univoltine races :—						
French Yellow..	Shillong, 1st generation.	10	1,425	April	29 grammes	
French White ..	Shillong, 1st generation.	10	1,525	April	29 ,,	
Assamese White	Titabar, 1st generation.	3	820	March	12·4 ,,	
French White × Assamese White.	Shillong, 1st generation.	5	718	March	15·6 ,,	
B.—Bivoltine races :—						
Japanese White	Shillong, 1st generation.	60	8,582	April	14·0 ,,	
Ditto	Shillong, 2nd generation.	50	8,625	May	14·2 ,,	
C.—Multivoltine Races :— Foreign						
K.—Nichi, 107× Assamese sarupat.	Titabar, 2nd generation.	40	10,950	May	11 ,,	
Ditto	Titabar, 3rd generation.	40	12,050	June	10·72 Ditto	
Ditto	Titabar, 1st generation.	25	4,195	July	12 Ditto	
K.—Nichi, 105× K. Nichi, 110	Titabar 1st gengeration.	10	920	Ditto	12·2 Ditto	
K.—Nichi, 107× K. Nichi 110	Titabar 1st generation.	18	1,050	May	13·4 Ditto	
K. Nichi, 105, 110, 107	Mysore 1st generation.	3	250	Ditto	14·2 Ditto	
K.—Nichi, 107	Titabar, 2nd generation.	30	9,000	June	14 Ditto	
Ditto 110	Titabar, 2nd generation.	12	2,250	Ditto	14 Ditto	
Ditto 105	Titabar, 2nd generation.	3	500	Ditto	13 Ditto	

Species and varieties of silk-worms		When procured	Number of layings reared	Yield obtained	Name of brood	Weight of 100 empty cocoons in grammes	Remarks
1		2	3	4	5	6	7
K.—Nichi,	107	Titabar, 3rd generation.	15	2,250	July	14 grammes	
Ditto	110	Titabar, 3rd generation.	15	1,800	Ditto	13·2 Ditto	
Ditto	105	Titabar, 3rd generation.	18	2,750	Ditto	10 Ditto	
Ditto	107	Titabar, 4th generation.	8	1,000	August	14·2 Ditto	
Ditto	110	Titabar, 4th generation.	6	900	Ditto	14·2 Ditto	
Ditto	105	Titabar, 4th generation.	10	2,190	Sept.	13·2 Ditto	
Ditto	110	Titabar, 5th generation.	8	1,600	Octo.	14·4 Ditto	
Ditto	105	Titabar, 5th generation.	15	5,290	Ditto	12·4 Ditto	
Ditto	107	Titabar, 5th generation.	10	1,520	Ditto	14·2 Ditto	
Ditto	110	Titabar, 6th generation.	10	15,000	Nov.	14·4 Ditto	
Ditto	105	Titabar, 6th generation.	10	1,050	Ditto	13 Ditto	
Ditto	107	Titabar, 6th generation.	10	1,000	Dec.	14·2 Ditto	
Ditto	110	Titabar, 7th generation.	26	2,305	March	11 Ditto	
Ditto	107	Titabar, 7th generation.	5	230	Ditto	10·2 Ditto	
Indigenous :— Assamese white		Titabar, 20th generation.	10	1,330	April	7 Ditto	
Ditto ditto		Titabar, 9th generation.	100	16,060	May	7·4 Ditto	
Ditto ditto		Titabar, 21st generation.	40	11,120	June	7 Ditto	

The total number of layings reared and the yield obtained from the three different species of silk-worms during the year were as follows :—

Species		Layings reared		Yield obtained
Muga	...	2,250	...	64,025 Cocoons
Eri	...	283	...	26,427 ,,
Pat	...	1,526	...	295,743 ,,

The production of *pat* and *muga* cocoons showed an increase compared with the figures of the previous year, while that of *eri* decreased a little due to the scarcity of castor leaves in the station.

The station produced the following quantities of disease-free (cellular) layings and seed cocoons and supplied them to the Seed Examiners and Demonstrators and the public interested in the industry. A quantity of them was also utilised for use in the two sericultural stations at Titabar and Shillong.

Some cross-breed *pat* layings were also produced in the station and supplied to a few selected rearers in different parts of the province. It is interesting to note that the sericulturists have been increasingly realising the advantages of rearing these higher and quicker yielding races.

Muga	...	43,675 seed cocoons and			2,272 layings	
Eri	...	5,925	,,	,, ,,	2,818	,,
Pat	...	250	,,	,, ,,	32,327	,,

The following table will show particulars of the supply of cellular seeds from the station to different localities both in and outside the province :—

Name of places	Kind and quantity supplied					
	Muga		*Eri*		*Pat*	
	Layings	Seed-cocoons	Layings	Seed-cocoons	Layings	Seed-cocoons
1	2	3	4	5	6	7
Lakhimpur district ..	..	..	50	..	305	..
Sibsagar ,, ..	..	43,500	1,080	..	15,900	..
Nowgong ,, ..	..	..	400	..	9,325	..
Darrang ,, ..	..	..	50	..	2,740	..
Kamrup ,, ..	..	..	..	..	1,150	..
Goalpara ,, ..	..	..	100	..	300	..
K. & J. Hills ,, ..	22	50	10	25	30	250
Sylhet ,, ..	..	..	50	..	..	..
Cachar ,, ..	..	..	25	..	..	..
Bihar ,, ..	..	125	100	400	..	..
Orissa ,, ..	..	..	420	..	..	..
Bengal ,, ..	..	..	250	..	..	..
Bombay ,, ..	..	..	..	..	20	..
The Punjab ,, ..	..	..	..	5,500	..	..
Total ..	22	43,675	2,535	5,925	29,770	250

Experiments on selective breeding of the indigenous polyvoltine races of mulberry silk-worms and the manurial experiments on castor to study the comparative effects on the vegetative growth of the plants, which were undertaken during the preceding year, are still in progress and the results are yet to be seen.

The results so far obtained from the manurial experiments on mulberry go to show that the application of sulphate of ammonia produces better vegetative growth of the plants than that of cowdung. But as ammonium sulphate is a costly chemical manure it will not suit the pockets of sericulturists in the rural areas who generally prefer cowdung, which practically costs nothing to them.

Another simple experiment to establish a foreign polyvoltine race by artificial treatment of a biovoltine race to produce a higher yielding cross-breed with the indigenous race, which was undertaken during the year under report, goes to show that by continuous artificial treatment it is possible to make a biovoltine race assume polyvoltine characteristics. A cross-breed with the indigenous race was prepared and during the year 4,070 layings were issued to the village rearers of the province. The hybrid race is being appreciated by the rearers, as it is more disease-resistant and gives higher yields.

The total sale proceeds of the farm amounted to Rs.507-14-6 as against Rs.357-4-3 in the preceding year.

Shillong Sericultural Station.—The area of the station remained unchanged at 20 acres of land, besides two acres of land belonging to the Military authorities, which they have allowed to be utilised by the Department. Seven acres of the mulberry area were terraced during the year under review. The plantations of the area terraced last year are showing signs of healthy growth owing to the fact that unlike previous years the top soils and the manures applied were not washed off by the rains. The newly terraced area was, as usual, manured with rotten cowdung and the gaps caused during the procees of terracing were filled up. The manuring and pruning of mulberry bushes were, as usual, conducted properly. With a view to study the comparative merits of different kinds of manure, 400 mulberry trees were manured with sulphate of ammonia and 160 with oil cake. The results are yet to be seen. Two acres of land have been sown afresh with castor.

The Farm supplied 15,015 mulberry cuttings and 10 lbs. of castor seeds to interested persons in different parts of the province for propagation of silkworm food-plants.

The rearing season commenced by the middle of March this year and ended by the beginning of November. As in the previous year, the incubator was used for uniform hatching of seeds of the foreign acclimatised races. Before the commencement of the rearing season, the rearing houses, all appliances, the seed cutting houses and the seeds (egg sheets) were thoroughly disinfected, as usual.

The following broods of silk-worms were reared in the nursery during the year with results noted against each :—

Species and varieties of silk worms	Whence procured	Number of layings reared	Yield obtained	Name of brood	Weight of 100 empty cocoons in grammes	Remarks
1	2	3	4	5	6	7
1. *PAT*—						
A.—Univoltines : —French white	France 8th generation.	35	8,386	May	34·18	
French yellow..	France 14th generation.	15	5,340	May	36·46	
Assamese Barpat French white ×	Titabar 2nd generation.	13	1,237	May	13·11	
Assamese Barpat	Shillong 5th generation.	12	2,978	May	23·5	
B.—Bivoltine—						
Japanese white	Titabar 29th generation.	15	4,030	May	16·2	
Ditto	Titabar 30th generation.	350	107,885	July	22·28	
Ditto	Titabar 31st generation.	100	33,231	Sept.	18·35	
C.—Multivoltine :—						
Assamese white	Titabar 1st generation.	10	1,022	May	8·96	
Ditto ditto	Titabar 2nd generation.	12	3,100	July	10·68	
Ditto ditto	Titabar 3rd generation.	40	11,935	Sept.	6·63	
Assamese greenish white.	Titabar 1st generation.	20	4,580	Sept.	6·95	
Assamese Moria	Titabar 1st generation.	10	1,300	May	8·94	
Ditto ditto	Titabar 2nd generation.	20	5,058	July	11·61	
Ditto ditto	Titabar 3rd generation.	40	8,320	Sept.	8·13	

Species and varieties of silk worms	Whence procured	Number of layings reated	Yield obtained	Name of brood	Weight of 100 empty cocoons in grammes	Remarks
1	2	3	4	5	6	7
K.—Nichi 107× Assamese white	Titabar 1st generation.	10	1,900	May	10·15	
Ditto	Titabar 2nd generation.	50	15,991	July	15·9	
Ditto	Titabar 3rd generation.	40	14,755	Sept.	10·1	
II—ERI—						
Assamese white	Palasbari 1st generation.	5	132	July	Not recorded	
Ditto	Palasbari 2nd generation.	16	2,424	Sept.	Ditto	
Ditto	Titabar 1st generation.	5	700	July	Ditto	
Ditto	Titabar 2nd generation.	5	750	Sept.	Ditto	
III—MUGA—						
Muga	Titabar 1st generation.	20	21	June	The Muga broods reared outdoors were badly damaged by hilly insect-pests coming from the pine forests near the farm.	
Ditto	Palasbari 1st generation.	25	190	Oct.		
Ditto	Palasbari 1st generation.	30	525	Ditto		
Ditto	Boko 1st generation.	10	25	Nov.		

The total number of layings reared and the yield obtained from the different species during the year was as follows :—

		Layings reared	Yield obtained
Pat	...	792	231,048
Eri	...	31	4,006
Muga	...	85	761

From the cocoons obtained the following quantities of cellular (disease-free) seeds of the different races and species were produced in the station for supply to the Demonstrators, and Seed Examiners and the village sericulturists as well as for use in the Shillong and the Titabar Farms :—

1. Univoltine French white	...	...	790 layings
2. Ditto ditto yellow	...	...	1,345 ,,
3. Assamese Barpat	...	...	225 ,,

4. Univoltine Hybrid (Fr. white × Assamese white)	...	...	1,065 layings
5. Bivoltine Japanese white	...	...	19,015 ,,
6. Multivoltine Assamese	...	...	4,772 ,,
7. Ditto Hybrid (K. Nichi, 107 × Assamese white)	...	...	4,696 ,,
8. *Eri* white	...	...	1,076 ,,
Total	...	...	32,984 layings

against 30,519 layings of the previous year.

It will be noticed from the above statement that 5,761 hybrid *pat* layings of both the Multivoltine and Univoltine races were prepared and issued to village rearers during the year. The hybrid races being more disease resistant and higher yielding are becoming more popular among the village sericulturists. Arrangements are being made to produce larger quantities of the seeds of these races next year.

The following statement gives detailed information about seeds supplied to different places in the province :—

Name of places	Kind and quantity of seeds supplied		Remarks
	Pat	*Eri*	
Jhanji	2,530 layings ...	300 layings ...	
Nowgong	1,850 ,, ...	... ...	
Kamalabari	3,900 ,, ...	100 ,, ...	
Palasbari	630 ,, ...	... ...	
Gaurisagar	3,315 ,, ...	150 ,, ...	
Sibsagar	1,780 ,, ...	50 ,, ...	
Charing	3,230 ,, ...	200 ,, ...	
Golaghat	1,550 ,, ...		
Jorhat	820 ,, ...	...	
North Lakhimpur ...	150 ,, ...		
Dibrugarh	250 ,, ...	...	
Bihpuria	100 ,, ...	...	
Borjoha	2,250 ,, ...	...	
Jaluguti	1,800 ,, ...	...	

Name of places	Kind and quantity of seeds supplied		Remarks
	Pat	Eri	
Kampur	1,200 laying ...	...	
Tezpur	636 ,, ...	...	
Sipajhar	2,060 ,, ...	180 layings ...	
Sapatgram	170 ,, ...	...	
Nalbari	155 ,, ...	...	
Boko	50 ,, ...	...	
Raha	1,400 ,, ...	...	
Kokrajhar	350 ,, ...	40 layings	
Rangjuli	600 ,, ...	...	
Patharkandi ...	....	30 ,,	
Titabar	135 ,, ...	5 layings	
Bihali	25 ,, ...	...	
Gauripur	80 ,, ...	...	
Doomdooma ...	100 ,, ...	...	
Total ...	31,116 ,, ...	1,055 ,,	

Cocoons unsuitable for seed purposes were all reeled into silk by the farm staff and the total produce thereof came to 24¼lbs. of first quality raw silk, the major portion of which was supplied to the Government Emporium and Central Stores, Gauhati, at Rs. 14-6-0 per seer. The demand for the farm reeled raw silk has been on the increase.

The sale proceeds of the station amounted to Rs. 265-8-9 during the year as against Rs. 317-6-0 in the previous year.

Sericultural Demonstration and production of Cellular seeds.—There are 6 permanent Demonstrators for propaganda and demonstration work in rural areas. Besides these, there are 20 temporary Sericultural Seed Examiners and Demonstrators and two Sericultural Supervisors to look after their field work, for whose maintenance the Department has been receiving an annual subsidy from the Government of India. These Sericultural Demonstrators and Seed Examiners worked in selected areas throughout the province in four different parties.

The Assistant Superintendent of Sericulture, who is also partially in charge of the sericultural demonstration work in the Upper Assam (Lakhimpur and Sibsagar districts) in addition to his own duties of supervision of the Titabar Sericultural station, had 10 Demonstrators and Seed Examiners under him. The Central Assam party, which comprises the districts of Darrang and Nowgong, had seven Demonstrators and Seed Examiners with a Sericultural Supervisor at their head. The work of the Lower Assam party (Kamrup and Goalpara districts) was similarly entrusted to the second Sericultural Supervisor with 6 Demonstrators and Seed Examiners to help him. The demonstration work in the Surma Valley was, however, conducted under the direct supervision of the Superintendent of Sericulture himself.

The field workers have rendered very substantial help to the sericulturists of the province by means of introducing improved stocks of food-plants, disease-free silk-worm seeds, scientific rearing methods, time and labour saving reeling and spinning machines and by giving technical instruction in all processes of work to the owners of model rearing houses and others, whenever necessary.

During the year under report the Department received a reduced grant from the Government of India with the result that the expenditure under certain heads had to be curtailed. As against 22 in the previons year, only 9 selected rearers were granted aid in kind for the construction of model rearing houses, the total number of which stood at 189 at the close of the year.

The enthusiasm evinced by educated youths of the province for taking up the industry as a subsidiary occupation seems to be on the increase. During the year under report four youths of Nowgong have already started mixed farms of Agriculture and Sericulture and several others have grown mulberry plants in the Sibsagar and Golaghat subdivisions. Besides, the institutions named below have taken up sericultural work under the guidance of the departmental staff:—

1. Silpa Prathisthan, Kathakuthi.
2. Lower Primary School, Rowmari.
3. Middle Vernacular School, Khara.
4. Silk Institute, Hahim.
5. Weaving School, Khatabari.
6. Jyoti Asram, Rowmari.
7. Sakti Asram, Fakiragram.

Some of these institutions are reported to be doing very useful work.

During the year under report several thousands of mulberry cuttings and more than 500 Sualu seedlings were planted in different localities in the Maulvibazar subdivision. The Subdivisional Officer, Maulvibazar, has taken a keen interest in the industry and has actually opened a mulberry garden, covering an area of more than a bigha of land, in the Sub-Jail compound there.

The social prejudice which existed among certain section of the population in the Assam Valley against *Pat* rearing is gradually vanishing and as a result, several families of caste Hindus in the districts of Sibsagar, Nowgong and Darrang and about 300 families of the tribal community in the districts of Kamrup and Goalpara have already planted mulberry cuttings supplied by the department.

To give an impetus to the development of the industry, Government have set apart 90 bighas of land on the western bank of Gaurisagar for a period of five years for the present for the cultivation of mulberry plants. A portion, 15 bighas in area, has been reserved for the Department and the rest has been given on lease to raiyats. The land has already been cleared of weeds and shrubs and duly reclaimed.

As usual, demands for *Eri* seeds from Bihar, Orissa, Bengal and the Punjab were met from the two farms and the model rearing houses in the province.

The sericultural staff with the help of the village sericulturists successfully participated in the Agricultural and Industrial exhibitions and shows held at Jhanji, Auniati, Lalabazar, Tezpur, Chootia, Kampur, Barama and Rangjuli. At some of the exhibitions the reelers and spinners of special merit were awarded medals, cash prizes and certificates for encouragement.

Besides their normal duties the departmental staff had to render assistance and technical advice in the working of the rural uplift centres organised by the Agricultural Department in different parts of the province.

The table below will show the kind and quality of work done by the district staff:—

Name of operator's circle	No. of Model Rearing houses under control	No. of layings distributed	Quantity of cellular seeds produced in the circle	Plantation of mulberry cuttings	Appliances sold during the year	Villages visited and surveyed	Remarks
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8
1 Rangjuli ..	3	22,082	15,000	8,680	50 *Charkas* and 6 *Muga* reels.	14	
2. Boko ..	..	4,413	3,807	936	13 *Charkas* and 1 *Sudarshan Jatar*.	17	
3. Palasbari ..	7	11,944	7,458	4,420	35 *Charkas*	18	
4. Nalbari ..	3	5,591	4,905	580	18 ,,	16	
5. Kokrajhar ..	3	2,630	2,015	2,625	21 ,,	10	
6. Sapatgram ..	3	5,883	3,116	2,250	13 ,,	28	
7. Jaluguti ..	15	12,822	4,295	830	3 ,,	20	
8. Raha ..	13	8,436	4,566	950	10 ,,	17	
9. Borjoha ..	13	7,568	4,345	250	5 ,,	15	
10. Nowgong ..	17	8,365	7,780	1,790	3 ,,	16	
11. Kampur ..	1	12,773	15,843	2,263	13 ,,	23	
12. Sipajhar ..	11	18,381	9,942	1,030	6 ,,	34	
13. Bihaguri (Tezpur.)	11	4,380	1,920	9,600	6 ,,	20	
14. Golaghat ..	6	10,151	6,957	2,873	8 *Charkas* and 2 *Muga* reels.	25	
15. Jorhat ..	11	10,030	6,250	1,490	8 *Charkas*	16	
16. Hailakandi ..	1	560	189	25	2 ,,	24	

Name of operator's circle	No. of Model Rearing houses under control	No. of layings distributed	Quantity of cellular seeds produced in the circle	Plantation of mulberry cuttings	Appliances sold during the year	Villages visited and surveyed	Remarks
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8
17 Karimganj ..	..	3,245	1,745	..	4 *charkas*	21	
18 Maulvibazar	..	494	100	7,800	..	43	
19 Charing ..	8	14,912	8,812	3,739	3 *charkas* and 1 *muga* reel.	18	
20 Sibsagar ..	8	7,731	3,536	958	8 *charkas*	15	
21 Gaurisagar ..	21	19,053	7,128	7,099	5 ,,	23	
22 Jhanji ..	14	16,815	3,545	3,680	2 ,, and 2 *muga* reels	18	
23 Kamalabari ..	9	14,077	4,056	4,296	8 *charkas*	27	
24 North Lakhimpur.	8	6,711	6,486	1,170	11 ,,	20	
25 Dibrugarh ..	3	12,910	11,913	957	7 ,,	18	
26 Bihpuria ..	..	4,745	3,790	100	22 ,,	15	
	189	2,46,702	1,49,499	70,391	284 *charkas*, 11 *muga* reels and 1 *Sudarshan Jatar*.	531	
During 1939-40	177	2,24,720	1,42,846	36,439	296 *charkas* and 6 *muga* reels.	562	

The number of mulberry cuttings planted during the year were nearly double that of the previous year. Besides, 800 Som and Sualu and 175 Keseru seedlings were planted and more than a maund of castor seeds was distributed among the sericulturists of the province.

The total quantity of disease free Silkworm seeds produced and used in the province during the year under review was as follows :—

Titabar station	... 37,417 layings	and 49,850 seed cocoons
Shillong ,,	... 32,984 ,,	
District Staff	... 149,499 ,,	
	219 900 layings	and 49,850 seed cocoons.
against	212,017 ,,	,, 13,397 ,, ,, in the previous year.

The fact that there was an increased demand for cellular (disease-free) seeds from all quarters goes to show that the village sericulturists have realised the advantages of issuing microscopically examined seeds.

Along with the increase in cocoon production more attention is being given to the problem of reeling uniform silk. At the instance of the Sericultural Seed Examiner and Demonstrator posted at Gaurisagar, a small reeling factory has been started with three cottage machines by the Assam Branch Spinners' Association at Nokatoni near Gaurisagar, but owing to the lack of co-operation from the rearers it is finding it difficult to get an adequate supply of cocoons to feed the machines.

As in the previous year, the surplus stock of waste *muga* and *eri* cocoons was sent to the Mysore Spun Silk Mills, and spun *muga* and *eri* silk are being used by the weavers of Sualkuchi, which is the most important silk weaving centre in the province.

Weather conditions in Lower Assam was not at all favourable for the Kotia Bund (Autumn crop) of *muga* during the year. The *muga* worms suffered from a disease known as *Flacharie*, which took an epidemic form, and the rearers could not harvest a successful crop. The rearers of Upper Assam, however, enjoyed fair weather throughout the year and reaped a good harvest.

The informal survey of the existing condition of the sericultural industry in the province which was undertaken more than a year ago could not be completed owing to the fact that the demonstration staff under the Department had very little time to collect the information required.

CHAPTER V

MISCELLANEOUS

Rao Saheb N. M. Sundram, L.T.M., held charge of the Emporium till the 21st November 1940 when Babu Rash Behari Das, L.T.M., took over charge from him and continued to hold it till the end of the year. The staff consisted as before of a Manager, an Assistant Manager and a chowkidar, but a despatcher was added from the Government of India grant for the development of the handloom industry to cope with the increase in the volume of work.

During the year under report the Emporium received a grant of Rs.5,000 from Government for purchase of dyestuffs and chemicals. It also received a contribution of Rs.2,800 for looms and accessories out of the Government of India grant. The Marketing Officer and the Travelling Canvassers appointed under the Government of India scheme rendered assistance to the Emporium in the sale of finished goods, in checking the accounts, and in the introduction of new patterns.

As in the previous year, the emporium supplied various Government departments with fabrics as far as possible.

The Emporium has up till now successfully introduced about 500 up-to-date patterns. It gave regular work to about 50 *ex*-students. Its leno fabric and Red Cross materials have been standardised. Orders for looms and accessories, colours and chemicals from individual weavers and members of co-operative societies were complied with. With the financial help received from the Central and Provincial Governments the Emporium was able to keep some quantities of yarns of various counts, dyestuffs and

chemicals for sale to the public and other institutions, but more funds are urgently needed to maintain an adequate stock of these articles.

The total sales of the Emporium, including that of its branch at Karimganj, amounted to about Rs.40,938-12-0 as against Rs.30,345-3-1 of the previous year. The working of the Emporium was satisfactory and it is expected that the net profits will be more than that of last year.

During the year under report the Emporium participated successfully in several exhibitions.

CHAPTER VI

FINANCIAL ASSISTANCE

Industrial Loans.—The total provision for the grant of industrial loans during the year under report was Rs.15,000 out of which loans to the extent of Rs.10,730 were issued to the following parties for the objects noted against each :—

	Rs.	
1. Babu Digindra Kumar Deb of Habiganj.	500	For purchase of raw materials, appliances, etc., for his soap manufacturing concern.
2. Maulavi Abdul Hamid of Titabar	2,000	Pisciculture.
3. Babu Chaubasingh Manipuri of Badarpur.	150	For manufacture of brass articles.
4. Srijut Khirode Kumar Barua of Nowgong.	2,880	For extension of his printing press.
5. Srijut Nilakanta Sarma of Nowgong.	300	For improvement of his soap factory.
6. Srijut Protap Chandra Talukdar of Gauhati.	500	For purchasing a printing machine.
7. Srijut Dharmaram Mohajan of Sualkuchi.	600	For improvement of his silk weaving factory.
8. The Pioneer Knitting Mills, Ltd., Gauhati.	1,000	For purchase of scientific machinery and raw materials.
9. Babu Suresh Chandra Biswas of Sylhet.	2,500	For manufacture of patent economy envelopes.
10. Srijut Balit Ram Karikor of Sualkuchi.	300	For improvement of his silk weaving factory.

Some of the applications for the grant of industrial loans had to be refused for want of adequte security.

The rules for the grant of industrial loans were revised by Government during the year in accordance with the recommendations of the Sub-committee appointed for the purpose. Under the revised rules, which are a relaxation to some extent of the former rules, the Director of Industries has been empowered to grant loans to the extent of **Rs. 300** in each individual case on personal security.

The recovery of industrial loans amounted to Rs.1,581-12-9 during the year and with the sum of Rs.10,730 issued during the year there remained a balance of Rs. 18,566-11-3 with the borrowers on 31st March 1941.

Contributions.—Contributions to the extent of Rs.2,800 were granted to the following private institutions during the year :—

Names of institutions	Amount of contribution sanctioned
	Rs.
1. Don Bosco Industrial School, Shillong	1,000
2. Mahila Sangha, Sylhet, Sheikhghat	75
3. Lal Chand Weaving School, Sylhet	75
4. Sahajalal Durrie Weaving School, Chadnighat, Sylhet	50
5. Supatala Weaving School, Beanibazar	50
6. Birasri Weaving School	80
7. Karimganj High English Madrassa	50
8. Paldahar Weaving School, Ratabari	50
9. Barlikha Jute Weaving School	75
10. Aghna Middle English School, C/o. Ram Krishna Seva Samity, Sylhet.	100
11. Habiganj High English School	50
12. Ram Krishna Sebasram, Silchar	50
13. Hafizia Weaving Society	50
14. Assamiyapara Mohila Samabaya Bayan Samity Limited, Tarapur, Silchar.	50
15. Sonabarighat Weaving Factory	50
16. Hailakandi Middle English Madrassa	50
17. Mission Middle English School, Haflong ...	50
18. A Noor's Commercial Institute, Sylhet	50
19. Nihar Bindu Girls' Weaving School, Seliabazar, Sylhet	25
20. New India School, Sohbar, Khasi and Jaintia Hills ...	50
21. Srinathpur Weaving School, Maulavibazar	100
22. Jorhat Weaving School	120
23. Sakti Asram, Fakiragram	150
24. Mahila Vidyapit, Sheikhghat; Sylhet	200
25. Pail Silpalaya and Sikha Sadan, Sylhet	25
26. Government Aided Ali Amjad Girl's High School, Sylhet	50
27. Ghagmari Weaving School, Goalpara	75
Total	2,800

The demands for such assistance are ever on the increase and some of the deserving institutions could not be helped with funds according to their needs owing to the inadequacy of the provision made in the budget.

As usual, the following contributions were sanctioned to the exhibition authorities named below for the award of prizes and medals for the best exhibits in the industrial sections :—

	Rs.
1. Agricultural, **Industrial** and Educational Exhibition, Kaliani, **Jorhat.**	25
2. Lachit Mela Exhibition, Jhanji	40
3. Agricultural, Industrial and Educational, health and poultry exhibition and ploughing competition, Buribail Rural Uplift Centre, Cachar.	40
Total	105

CHAPTER VII

INDUSTRIAL ENQUIRIES

As in previous years, there were numerous enquiries for information, advice and guidance on various industrial and commercial subjects both from inside and outside the province. Some of the enquirers asked for estimates for starting new industries for which there is scope in the province. It has unfortunately to be repeated year after year that the Department does not possess the necessary staff to attend to these enquiries and that the help of the Director General of Commercial Intelligence and Statistics, Calcutta and the Director of other provinces in many cases had to be sought for before a reply could be given to the enquirers.

The following cases will show the nature of the enquiries received and attended to as far as possible during the year under report.

Names of acid manufacturing factories ; names and addresses of manufacturers of Wood screws of iron and brass in Assam ; possibilities for establishing a ply-wood factory and selection of a site for it ; information regarding the total import and export of rosin and turpentine ; list of factories manufacturing superphosphates from bones together with the yearly production ; names and addresses of shellac factories in the province ; availability of ink blue A. S. required for the preparation of ink powder ; particulars regarding trade in live animals, production of hides

and skins, sheep rearing for wool and mutton, goat rearing for milk and mutton, poultry keeping for eggs and table poultry, horse breeding and other live-stock industries such as pig rearing, etc. ; production capacity of honey in the province together with details as to the ruling prices and the method of packing ; names and addresses of manufacturers of edible gelatine in the province ; names and addresses of manufacturers of celluloid combs ; names and addresses of oil mills ; possibilities of producing essential oils, fats and wax ; names and addresses of manufacturers of carborundum, fused alumina, carborandum paper or cloth, abrasive wheels and discs, steel wool and steel balls ; names and addresses of manufacturers of typewriter ribbon ; names and addresses of manufacturers of injections and vaccines and of polishing materials ; names of firms dealing in rhinoceros horns ; estimate for establishment of a factory for manufacturing safety razor blades, needles, pins, gem clips and pen nibs ; possibility of manufacturing domestic utility articles such as broom handles, dolly pegs, meat skewrs, etc., out of soft wood in India ; names and addresses of manufacturers of incandescent lamps ; preparation of a scheme with an estimate for manufacturing wire products such as nails, etc.; collection of scrap metals such as iron, tin, lead, zinc, copper, brass and bronze and alluminium as a measure of economy for trade purposes.

CHAPTER VIII

TECHNICAL AND INDUSTRIAL EDUCATION

(1) *Fuller Technical School, Kohima.*—On the 31st March 1941, the total number of students on the roll of the school stood at 26. In making selections for new admissions preference was, as usual, given to boys of the poorer families of the principal tribes of the district, such as Angamis, East Angamis, Semas, Lohtas, Kukis, Kacha Nagas. Rengmas, Sangtams, Aos and Konyaka, provided they possessed a fair knowledge of elementary arithmatic and could read and write English and speak at least broken Assamese. There was a hard competition for admission to the school this year as well.

The teaching staff of the school remained the same as in the previous year. The carpentry Instructor, who was deputed for a six months' course of practical training in His Royal Highness the Prince of Wales Technical School, Jorhat, returned to duty after completion of the course.

The main object of the school being to turn out practical and useful craftsmen who can earn their own livelihood by independent means, instruction is imparted to the students in carpentry, blacksmithy and tinsmithy and stone masonry work for three years, and in addition instruction is also given in arithmatic, simple mensuration, practical geometry and scale drawing, a knowledge of which is essentially necessary for them as practical craftsmen. Each student is, however, required to specialise himself in one of the three main subjects taught in the school according to his aptitude.

Of the 4 students who passed the final examination held in June, 1940 after completion of the three years' course, three specialised in carpentry and one in blacksmithy.

With a view to give better facilities for the students' employment as duly qualified craftsmen, Government sanctioned the award of two scholarships, at Rs.12 per mensem annually to two of the passed students of the school for further training in His Royal Highness the Prince of Wales Technical School, Jorhat, with effect from July, 1940 and accordingly two students were sent there during the year under review.

The workshop receipts of the school together with Rs,232-7-0, being the income from other sources, amounted to Rs.572-11-0 as against Rs.301-10-0 of the previous year, showing an increase of Rs.271-1-0. The total expenditure incurred in maintaining the school during the year amounted to Rs.4,137-3-0 as against Rs.5,355-1-6 of the previous year showing a decrease of Rs.1,217-14-6. Since the close of the year, the school has been amalgamated with the newly started Government High School at Kohima from 1st May, 1941 and the entire staff has been absorbed in the establishment of the latter school. The question as to the authority in whom the administrative control of the school should be vested is under the consideration of Government.

(2) *Surma Valley Technical School, Sylhet.*—Mr. P.C. Dutta, L.M.E., was in-charge of the school as the Principal throughout the year, except for a short period of 13 days when he was on leave from the 13th to the 29th October 1940, and during this period Babu Ashutosh Bhattacharyya, B.SC. (Eng. Benares), Lecturer of Mechanics, remained in-charge in addition to his own duties.

On the 31st March, 1941 the number of students on the roll stood at 80, as per table below, which will show the distribution in different courses according to community.

Section	Hindu	Muslim	Total
Mechanical apprentice	20	11	31
Wood-working	9	5	14
Weaving (Ele.)	10	4	14
Weaving (Advce.)	6	2	8
Durrie Weaving	2	4	6
Motor Mechanics	4	3	7
	51	29	80

Out of 213 applications received for admission 144 candidates were selected by the Managing Committee, but ultimately only 73 actually joined the school.

Besides two stipends of the value of Rs.10 each per mensem, which were awarded to two of the passed students of the Elementary Weaving Course of the school for training in the advanced course of the Gauhati Weaving Institute, there were 8 stipends in the weaving section and 4 in the Durrie weaving section of the school. The value of these twelve stipends is Rs.8 each per mensem. Ten students from the Mechanical apprentice section and five from the wood-working section were in receipts of work pay at the usual rate of annas five per day of attendance.

On their failure to secure work pay some students, being unable to defray their expenses themselves, left the school before completion of their courses of study. The proposal submitted by my predecesor for increasing the number of those to whom work-pay is given has since been accepted by Government and the necessary provision for the purpose will be made in the budget for the year 1942-43.

In the final examination held in 1940, 7, 4, 22, 9 and 6 students came out successful from the Mechanical apprentice, Wood-working, Weaving, Durrie weaving and Motor mechanics sections, respectively.

Two of the passed students of the Mechanical Apprentice section of the school are said to have been absorbed in the Defence Services while the rest are reported to have secured employment as apprentices in the Assam Oil Company, Limited at Digboi. With regard to the employment of students of the other sections of the school there is no definite information, but as far as information is available, some of the students of the wood-working section are working as carpenters on daily wages here and there. Of the passed students of the weaving section, two have got employment in the Dhakeswari Cotton Mills and one has been absorbed in the Department in the weaving branch.

A sum of Rs.29,566-3-9 as against Rs.31,211-3-3 of the previous year was required for expenditure in maintaining the school during the year under review. The workshop receipts amounted to Rs.953-13-6 as against Rs.917-3-6 of the previous year.

It is reported that 10 *ex*-students of this institution have joined the Defence Service and found employment in workshops and factories in different capacities.

The school has taken up the War Technicians training scheme, for which the necessary staff, tools and equipments worth about Rs.10,000 were sanctioned by the Government of India. Additional accommodation by construction of a new Fitter's shop was also provided by that Government at a cost of Rs.5,080 during the year under report.

There were only three meetings of the Managing Committee of the school during the year.

(3) His Royal Highness the Prince of Wales Technical School, Jorhat:- Srijut Purna Chandra Chaudhury, L.E., was the Principal of the school throughout the year and visited the Local Boards' technical schools at Tezpur and Silghat.

Besides the opening of two new sections for imparting training in Electroplating and Bell-metal works with effect from the 16th July, 1940, the school had to put into operation the scheme sponsored by the Central Government for training technicians for war purposes, the requisite staff, tools and implements required in connection therewith being provided by the Central Government.

Out of 195 applicants for admission, 87 were finally selected and of these 68 actually joined the school, but only 57 of them continued their training. The school, had altogether 99 students on its roll on the 31st March, 1941 in different sections as detailed below :—

Higher Motor Mechanics Section	23
Mechanical Apprentice Section	24
Wood-working Section	25
Motor Mechanics Section	18
Electroplating Section	3
Bell-metal Section	4
Special students	2
	99

The distribution of students according to community is shown below :—

Hindus	59
Muslims	11
Tribal	15
Ahoms	8
Scheduled Caste	5
Christian	1
	99

There were 12 stipend holders, each getting a stipend at the rate of Rs.12 per mensem, in the Higher Motor Mechanics section, which is maintained out of the income from the Bholanath Borooah Educational Endowment fund. Besides these, stipends of the value of Rs.12 each per mensem were held by two students in the mechanical apprentice section, eight students in the wood-working section and two students in the motor mechanics (junior) section. These stipends were sanctioned by Government for Khasi boys only. Two special stipends of the same value meant exclusively for Garo boys were awarded to two candidates selected by the Deputy Commissioner, Garo Hills. Fifteen students of the mechanical apprentice and wood-working sections received workpay at the usual rate of annas five per day of attendance, and a total sum of Rs.887-10-6 was required for the purpose during the year under report.

The total expenditure in maintaining the school, including the cost of training a batch of Police Sub-Inspectors, amounted to Rs.39,957-11-3 as against Rs.36,399-14-6 in the previous year. Out of this, Rs.33,836-9-9 was met from the provincial revenues and the balance of Rs.6,121-1-6 from the Bholanath Borooah Educational Endowment Fund for the maintenance of the Higher Motor Mechanics section. The increase in expenditure is mainly due to the addition of electroplating and bell-metal classes in the school from the beginning of the session. The above expenditure also includes the pay of the Instructors deputed to the school from the Fuller Technical School at Kohima for practical training and the special stipends for Khasi and Garo boys.

The total receipts of the school, including the amounts of bills outstanding, increased further this year from Rs.3,063-6-6 to Rs.3,840-10-0.

The main school building was extended by 130 sq. feet at a cost of Rs.370. A separate latrine and urinal was also constructed for the students and the staff at a cost of Rs.460. The moulding shed was also remodelled for accommodating the electroplating and bell-metal classes at a cost of Rs.150 only.

New tools and equipments of the value of Rs.4,355-14-3 were purchased during the year under review for different sections of the school. Besides these, the school was provided with the necessary fitters', turners', blacksmiths', motor mechanics' and electricians' tools for the training of war technicians by the Central Government.

In the final examination of the school which was held in May, 1940, 27 students participated, but only 20 came out successful. Of these, 3 belonged to the mechanical apprentice, 5 to the wood-working, 5 to the Higher motor mechanics and the remaining 7 to the motor mechanics (junior) sections.

It is reported that as many as 15 out of 20 students who came out successful at the final examination held during the year have already secured suitable employment.

Of the 39 boys who could be accommodated in the hostel attached to the school there were 19 Hindu, 4 Muslim, 14 Tribal, 1 Scheduled caste boy and 1 Christain boy.

The Managing Committee of the school met three times to transact the business of the school.

(4) *Technical and Industrial scholarships.*—Out of the provincial budget the following stipends tenable at the institutions named below were awarded during the year under report :—

Indian School of Mines, Dhanbad...	1
Victoria Jubilee Technical Institute, Bombay ...	1
Abdulla Fazalbhoy Technical Institute, Bombay ...	1
Channapatna Industrial School, Mysore	2
Srichamarajendra Technical Institute, Mysore ...	2
Indian Bakery and Confectionary College, Calcutta ...	2

The two stipendiaries in the Batuk Prasad Khetri Industrial School, Benares and Government Hosiery Institute, Ludhiana continued their training during the year.

CHAPTER IX

WILLIAMSON APPRENTICESHIP SCHEME

The total income of the Assam Williamson Education Endowment Fund amounted to Rs.5,746-6-0 during the year under report.

In accordance with the terms of the endowment, stipends of different values were held by as many as 14 students in the following institutions for training in various industrial subjects.—

1. Messrs. Balmer Lawrie & Co.	2
2. Dibru Sadiya Railway Workshop	4
3. Pioneer Knitting Mills, Ludhiana branch ...	1
4. Messrs. Jessop & Co.	1
5. Maharaja Cossimbazar Polytechnic Institute ...	2
6. Commercial Carrying Company, Shillong ...	1
7. Mysore Silk Institute...	1
8. Government Lac and Paints Work, Mysore ...	2
	14

The total number of stipends, however, did not exceed the limit of 12 to be held at a time under the rules for the administration of the fund.

Contributions to the extent of Rs.2,777-8-0, which also includes money order commission, were paid to the following private institutions imparting vocational training to the youths of the province :—

1. Sapatgram Middle English and Technical School, P. O. Sapatgram.	100
2. Barpeta Nahati Girls' Middle Vernacular School, P. O. Barpeta.	50
3. Khara Girls' Middle Vernacular School, Dhubri	75
4. Sakti Asram, Fakiragram P. O.	125
5. Raghupati Bayan Bidyalaya Larama, P. O. Athgharia.	100
6. Sister Superior, St. Mary's Convent, Gauhati ...	100
7. Girish Vidyalaya, Patla P. O. Sarupeta ...	50
8. Kokrajhar Girls' Weaving School, P. O. Kokrajhar (Goalpara).	50
9. Bihaguri Girls' Middle Vernacular School, P. O. Bihaguri.	150
10. Chamata Government Aided High English School, P. O. Chamata.	200
11. Weaving and Spinning School, Hahim, P. O. Boko.	50
12. Bikaldehe Weaving Institute, Kathalkuthi, P. O. Dhupdhan.	50
13. Devi Ram Weaving School, Nalbari	150
14. Sarthebari High English School, P. O. Sarthebari.	150
15. Ghagmari Weaving School, P. O. Fakiragram ...	50
16. Jorhat Weaving School	100
17. Manager, Assam Poly-Technic Institute, P. O. Sibsagar.	100
18. Mahura Weaving School, P. O. Mohura (Sibsagar).	50
19. Silghat Technical and Industrial School ...	100

20. Girls Training Institute, Silghat	... ...	50
21. Technical and Industrial School, Nowgong	...	100
22. Mohini Rajkumari, Village Mahura, Bilatia P.O. Mahura, Golaghat.		50
23. Srijut Gopal Chandra Handiqui Barua, Opar Nazira, Village Nazira.		100
24. Goalpara Gopaltoli Girls' Middle English School		50
25. Pioneer Knitting Mills, Gauhati	... ...	175
26. Ketakibari Boakata Girls' Training School	...	100
27. Rangafalli Industrial School, Barama P. O. Kamrup.		75
28. Rowmari Lower Primary School	... ...	50
29. Rani Saraj Bala Nari Samiti	... ...	100
30. Cherrapunji Ramkrishna Mission School	...	100

Further contributions of Rs.245 and Rs.50 were sanctioned respectively to the Inspectors of Schools, Assam Valley and Surma Valley and Hill Districts for the purchase of books for circulating libraries among the vernalar teachers and pupils in the Assam Valley and deserving school libraries in Khasi and Jaintia Hills and North Cachar Hills.

The total expenditure incurred from the fund during the year amounted to Rs.5,508-12-0 as against Rs.5,885-11-0 in the previous year.

CHAPTER X

ACKNOWLEDGMENT AND MERIT OF OFFICERS

The Department is gratefui to the Deputy Commissioners of Kamrup, Sibsagar, Sylhet, and Naga Hills for the interest they have taken in the welfare and management of the technical schools in their respective districts.

I find from the records left by my predecessor that Rao Saheb N. M. Sundram continued his good work with his usual keenness and enthusiasm.

The Department is under a particular debt of gratitude to Lady Reid for her efforts towards improving the hand-loom industry of the province by the introduction of new designs in textile fabrics and the valuable help given by her through the Assam Industries Association, Shillong, to expand its activities.

Mr. R. B. Das, acting Weaving Superintendent, has performed his duties with earnestness.

Mr. R. Dutta, the Superintendent of Sericulture, has worked quite satisfactorily.

The Principals of both the technical schools did their work creditably.

In conclusion, mention must be made of the loyal assistance rendered both to my predecessor and myself by the staff of my office and the useful help and advice given to both of us by my Personal Assistant, Srijut Girish Chandra Sarma.

M. H. HUSSAIN,

Director of Industries, Assam.

GOVERNMENT OF ASSAM

ORDERS BY THE GOVERNOR

Resolution on the Report of the Department of Industries, Assam, for the year 1940-41

Extract from the proceedings of the Government of Assam in the Local Self-Government Department No.LIN.1249/41, dated the 10th April 1942.

READ—

The Report of the Department of Industries, Assam, for the year 1940-41.

RESOLUTION

THE activities of the Department were, as before, directed mainly towards improving handloom weaving and sericulture and imparting and encouraging technical and industrial education among the youths of the province.

Besides training students in the Weaving Schools, four peripatetic weaving demonstration parties, the jute weaving party, and the hosiery demonstration party of the Department engaged in introducing improved appliances, processes, designs and patterns in handloom weaving, and in teaching spinning and weaving jute fabrics and hosiery. For the development of handloom weaving in the province, the Department received a grant of Rs.25,075 from the Government of India which was expended mainly on four schemes, which have been in operation since 1935-36, *viz.*, the reorganisation of the Government Emporium and Central Stores at Gauhati, the establishment of a Branch Emporium at Karimganj, the appointment of two Co-operative Weaving Inspectors, and the appointment of Dyeing Supervisor and Calico Printing Instructor. The Government Emporium also received a grant of Rs.5,000 from Government for the purchase of dye-stuff and chemicals for departmental use and the use of individual weavers. Besides complying with orders for looms and accessories from weavers and weaving societies, the Emporium introduced about 100 more new patterns during the year under report and supplied regular work to about 50 *ex*-students and other weavers. Government are glad to note that the total sales of the Emporium including its Branch at Karimganj amounted to Rs.40,938-12-0 against Rs.30,345-3-1 of the

previous year. There were in all 106 Co-operative Weaving Societies. The record sales of Khasi Co-operative Weaving Society of Shillong amounting to Rs.11,050-11-0 against Rs.5,700-0-0 of the previous year, are particularly noteworthy and the credit for such increased sales was mainly due to the efforts of the Assam Industries Association. The Dyeing Supervisor dyed cotton yarn and other goods for the Emporium, Weaving Schools and private factories and also introduced fast dyeing in rural areas. The previous year's experiment of holding classes in Calico printing met with success and in the year under review 31 students underwent training as against 10 students of the previous year.

The two Sericultural stations at Titabar and Shillong directed their activities mainly towards the production of disease-free seeds and their distribution both in and out of the province. The Eri Seeds were particularly in demand from Bihar, Orissa, Bengal and the Punjab, the Punjab alone having received 3,500 seed-cocoons from Titabar station. Government notice with pleasure that educated youths are taking up sericulture as a subsidiary occupation and that the social prejudice against *Pat* rearing is gradually disappearing. To encourage the development of this industry, Government set apart 90 bighas of land on the bank of Gourisagar in Sibsagar subdivision for a period of five years for the cultivation of Mulberry plants. Several farms in Nowgong and many persons in Sibsagar, Golaghat, and Maulvibazar Subdivisions grew and planted Mulberry plants and cuttings.

Other cottage industries, also received attention. A Bell metal class and a class for training students in Electro-plating were opened in His Royal Highness the Prince of Wales Technical School at Jorhat. A scheme for the manufacture of *Ghee* was sanctioned during the year under report with a view to introduce and demonstrate up-to-date methods of manufacture. In order to introduce pisciculture as a cottage industry, a Fishery Officer was also sanctioned during the year. Investigations were carried on by the Fishery Officer but more investigations are yet necessary before any scheme can be drawn up.

Industrial loans to the extent of Rs.10,730 were issued during the year under report against Rs.600 of the previous year and contributions to the extent of Rs.2,800 were granted to 27 weaving, industrial and other institutions against Rs.1,950 awarded to 21 such institutions in the previous year. Rupees 105 was granted for the different exhibitions held during the year against Rs.150 of the previous year. Out of the outstanding loans of Rs.9,418-8-0, Rs.1,581-12-9 only was recovered during

the year, leaving a balance of Rs.18,566-11-3 due for recovery at the end of the year. More earnest endeavours should be made for better realisation of the outstanding loans.

Out of the Assam Williamson Endowment Fund, 14 students were awarded stipends against 12 of the previous year and contributions to the extent of Rs.2,777-8-0 were granted to 30 different institutions against Rs.2,777 granted to 33 institutions of the previous year. Rupees 295 was also granted as in the previous year for the purchase of books for different libraries.

The total number of students of the three Technical Schools at Kohima, Jorhat and Sylhet stood respectively at 26, 99 and 80 against 23, 79 and 86 of the previous year. Besides the existing stipends granted in these schools, Government sanctioned during the year under report two stipends to be awarded to two passed students of the Fuller Technical School at Kohima for further training in the Technical School at Jorhat. War Technicians' training was undertaken in both the Technical Schools at Jorhat and Sylhet and 10 *ex*-students of the Sylhet Technical School joined the Defence Service.

Government thank Mr. S. L. Mehta, I.C.S., and the present Director of Industries, for the efficient administration of the Department, and the latter for his interesting report.

R. DHAR,

Deputy Secretary to the Government of Assam,
Education and L. S.-G. Departments.

A. G. P. (L. S.-G.) No. 19—162—1-5-1942.